



Next week will be the Christian Holy Week and the beginning of the Jewish feast of Passover.

Traditionally Holy Week is organized something like a Mozart concerto. Palm Sunday is the first movement — *allegro*, a joyful celebration. But everyone knows that at the end of the week we will have the second movement, what Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) has called “The hour of lead.” Then at the following Sunday, Easter, we move beyond joyful — *allegro con brio*! Are those enough performance notes for you?

Some poets suggest that next week is an allegory for reinvigoration after devastation. For myself, I am attracted to the theme and rhythm of walking. There was a lot of walking. The crowd walked down the hillside waving branches and welcoming Jesus like a breath of fresh air. I have walked those steps, as well as the steps on the streets where tradition says he walked to his execution. And I have walked to the ornate church which many say enshrines the empty tomb.

I feel it is important for me this week to keep on walking. It's not as easy for me as it once was and I appreciate companions. One group are those close to me — human friends and animals

who know well the land on which I live. Another is made up of the many I do not know who are trying to make their lives and this world a better place. Let us be “Mothers of God” as Meister Eckhart (1260-1328) put it, “we are all meant to be the Mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born,” and reborn in our age.

And so, making peaceful steps, we move on to a Holy Week.

From Brother Toby's STEPPING STONES: Daily Reflections by an Unconventional Monk.

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